

any shorter period, as that of a day and night, the mean point of saturation, as might be expected, generally bears a certain relation to the *lowest* degree to which the temperature has fallen during the period; since the *Hygrometer** shows that the degree of saturation, at any hour, is seldom below the point of saturation corresponding to the lowest temperature of the twenty-four hours; at which point it continues nearly uniform, so that the point of saturation during the warmer parts of the day generally varies only a few degrees. The elevation and depression of the dew point in temperate climates is thus another, and unceasing cause of change; and produces a variety in evaporation and condensation so great, as to baffle any attempt at accurate enquiry.

From what has been said, it will appear that in a mixed atmosphere, the rate of evaporation and of condensation, other things being equal, will depend, not on the difference of the temperature of the air from the maximum point of saturation, but on the difference of the temperature of the air from that of *the mean dew point*;

* The Hygrometer is an instrument for measuring the degree of moisture of the atmosphere. Mr. Daniell's Hygrometer is here alluded to, which is the only one acting upon scientific principles. *Daniell's hygrometer* shows the degree of temperature at which water is deposited from the atmosphere, and consequently its state of saturation.